

Testimony for SB284: “AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS”

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Marni McNiff, and I am the parent support advocate and Certified Community Health Worker for Parents Available to Help (PATH) CT . I am a resident of Brookfield, CT.

PATH CT is in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

PATH CT has provided services to families throughout CT since 1986 at no burden to the families with special needs we serve. We provide supports and services to many underserved families in CT including those that are immigrant and/or undocumented who need assistance with healthcare navigation, enrollment into Medicaid and other state eligibility programs. Families that are not eligible due to their immigration status are incredibly vulnerable and greatly impacted by social determinants of health such as housing, food insecurity, health and poverty. We must develop legislation, policies and funding for community based organizations and community health centers to provide these basic needs to be met for all families in CT.

We support S.B. 284 and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, we ask the committee to work towards opening access to all community members in CT regardless of age, status or abilities.

Thank you for your time,

Marni McNiff, Parent Support Advocate/CCHW, PATH
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